



EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

May 9, 2006 (12:01 am)

Contact:

Amber Moore
Tricom Associates
(703) 276-2772 x17
amber@tricomassociates.com

Maria Gladowski
Disney Worldwide Outreach
(818) 560-6360

Terre Haute Teacher Wins National Disney Education Award

Honey Creek Middle School Teacher Douglas Dillion Chosen From More Than 75,000 Nominees for Inspiring, Creative Classroom Strategies

Media Note: Dillion is available for in-person interviews, photos, and classroom visits until 5/5; via phone after 5/5. To make arrangements, please call Tricom contact.

BURBANK, Calif.— Douglas Dillion, a middle school technology education teacher at Honey Creek Middle School in Terre Haute, has been chosen from more than 75,000 nominees nationwide to receive the 2006 Disney Teacher Award in celebration of his creativity, innovative teaching methods, and ability to inspire his students.

As one of only 44 Disney Teacher Honorees, Dillion receives \$10,000 from Disney and a trip to the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif., for a week of fun and celebration from July 29 to August 3. In addition, Disney awards \$5,000 to Honey Creek Middle School.

“Disney is dedicated to brightening the lives of children and we salute dedicated teachers like Mr. Dillion for using creativity in their classrooms to inspire our children to achieve more than they ever thought possible,” said Terry Wick, vice president of Disney Worldwide Outreach. “We hope communities across the country will join us in thanking all their great teachers this week during Teacher Appreciation Week.”

Disney Teacher Honorees are selected by their peers—representatives of leading educational associations from across the United States and former Disney Teacher Honorees. Honorees come from every subject field and every level of PreK-12 teaching. Dillion is one of three Honorees being recognized for applied fields education.

Creativity is key in Dillion’s classroom. “Tech Town USA is my most popular activity. Students and their parents start out with homework that get the parents involved. The students use this homework as research to design their house. They then build a scale model, where creativity is encouraged,” he explained. “Finally, they become a realtor and create a realty sheet with price, taxes, size, and persuasive descriptions.”

- more -

“My favorite parts of teaching are: having students get excited about learning, wanting to come to my class just to work extra on activities, and helping them achieve to their maximum potential,” said Dillion.

The Disney Teacher Awards do not simply honor one teacher, they also make an investment in that teacher’s educational community. In addition to the monetary awards, Disney will also fly Dillion and his principal to the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., in October for a six-day professional development institute where they can refine their own innovative teaching approaches by sharing ideas and learn how to engage other teachers to build an effective collaborative teaching culture at their school.

Once they return, Dillion and his principal will work with experts from the Center for Collaborative Education in Boston to design a schoolwide plan for making teaching more effective. Dillion will take a leadership role, educating his fellow teachers in the creative techniques that have made him so successful at connecting with students.

“I plan to use Disney’s professional development to help create more standard based activities that encourage higher level cognitive skills and don’t depend on textbooks,” said Dillion.

“Mr. Dillion’s lessons are carefully crafted so he can challenge all levels of students to the best of their abilities,” wrote Patrick Sheehan, principal of Honey Creek Middle School, in a letter to Disney. “Mr. Dillion would not admit this, but he deserves this honor for his dedication to the students he teaches each day – providing not only knowledge of technology, but creating outstanding citizens for our country.”

During the week of celebratory events in Anaheim, five exceptional teachers will be chosen from the 44 Honorees. Four Outstanding Teachers and one Disney Teacher of the Year will receive an additional \$15,000 from Disney.

“This honor is the most important thing in my life next to my family and my students. I can now use my Disney experience as inspiration for my students,” added Dillion.

About Disney Worldwide Outreach

The Disney Teacher Awards program is part of Disney Worldwide Outreach. Disney is dedicated to making the wishes of families and children a reality through public service initiatives, community outreach and volunteerism in the areas of compassion, learning, the arts and the environment. In 2005, Disney contributed more than \$190 million in cash, in-kind support and public service air time globally. Disney VoluntEARS, company employees who donate their time to outreach projects, contributed more than 442,000 hours of service. For more information on Disney’s outreach initiatives, please visit www.disneyhand.com. For more on the Disney Teacher Awards, please visit www.disneyteacherawards.org.